

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9, and 10 are pending in the present application.

The rejection of Claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Kobayashi et al is obviated by amendment.

Applicants note that in view of the cancellation of Claim 8 and the amendment of Claim 7, this ground of rejection is no longer tenable. Specifically, Applicants note that Kobayashi et al fail to disclose or suggest a pair of primers consisting of (i) a primer comprising the base sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7 and (ii) a primer comprising the base sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8 as presently claimed.

In view of the present amendments, Applicants request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph (written description), is obviated by amendment.

The primary criticism of the originally present claims was the scope of the claimed primers was too broad as to be properly supported by the description in the present specification. To address this criticism, Applicants have redefined the first step of the independent claims to specify that a pair of primers are to be synthesized and providing a definition thereof. For example, independent Claim 1 defines the pair of primers as *consisting of* (i) a primer comprising the base sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7 and (ii) a primer comprising 15-30 bp of a sequence that is complementary to a base sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4,

SEQ ID NO: 5, and SEQ ID NO: 6. This limitation, including the size of primer (ii) finds explicit support in the specification, for example at page 10, line 21 to page 11, line 9.

In view of the amendments herein, Applicants submit that the full scope of the present specification is adequately described in the specification so as to permit the artisan to appreciate that the present inventors were in possession of the full scope thereof and also to appreciate the metes and bounds of the presently claimed invention.

Applicants request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is obviated by amendment.

Applicants have amended the claims to address the Examiner's specific points of criticism and to improve the overall clarity and readability of the claims. In view of the present amendments, Applicants believe that this ground of rejection is not longer tenable.

Withdrawal of the above-identified rejection is requested.

The objection to Claim 8 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) is obviated by cancellation of this claim. Applicants request that the withdrawal of this ground of object be withdrawn.

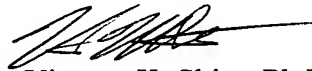
Finally, Applicants note that in paragraph 12 of the Office Action Summary page accompanying the Office Action mailed January 24, 2005, the Examiner has indicated that only "some" of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received. Applicants note that this is incorrect as the certified copy of JP 2001-034113 was filed on February 7, 2002. The filing of the same can be readily confirmed by inspection of the Patent Office's PAIR system. Applicant note that the Examiner's indication on page 2 of the Office Action

mailed January 24, 2005, that the translation of the foreign priority application has not been filed is of no relevance to Applicants' *claim* to priority. The Examiner appears to be simply confusing Applicants' claim to priority (only requires submission of a certified copy of the foreign priority application) and perfecting priority (which requires filing of a certified English translation of the foreign priority application). Therefore, it is requested that the Office acknowledge Applicants' claim by checking the appropriate box in paragraph 12 of the Office Action Summary page.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance.
Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



Vincent K. Shier, Ph.D.
Registration No. 50,552

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
NFO:VKS